



North Carolina

Recycling and Materials Management Section

Recycling & Materials Management Grant Programs

*Environmental Show of the South
May 2018*

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NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)



A Year of Changes ... and more changes

- Staffing Changes
- Legislative Threats
- Market Changes



Despite a year of change... Our staff was hard at work

- 6 Local Government Networking Meetings and Infrastructure Tours
- NC Manufacturing Zero Waste Networking event
- With CRA & SC Commerce, Recycling Business Connections event
- Annual Local Government Reporting Cycle
 - Data collection & analysis
- Anti-contamination Toolkit development
- Regional messaging stakeholder meetings
- Technical support on market challenges
- Carolina Plastics Recycling Council annual meeting
- Annual Grant Cycles



Presentation Overview

- NC Grant Making Background
- Scope & Focus of Programs
- Grants as Program Driver & Economic Development Tool
- Examples of Recent Successes
- What's ahead...?





NC Grant Making Authority



1989

NC § 130A-309.06 establishes NC DEQ duties to promote and assist development of waste reduction and recycling programs

NC § 130A-309.12 Solid Waste Management Trust Fund

Provide technical and financial assistance for:

Local government recycling programs

Recycling market development

2013

NC § 130A-309.13 Solid Waste Management Outreach Program



NC Recycling Grants – The Early Days

- Began grant making 1990
- Approx. \$140,000 awarded to 6 projects
- Early grants were mostly demonstration grants
(e.g., compost demo projects, ONP to animal bedding, mixed paper markets & composting)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

1991 Local Government Recycling Assistance Grants Program for North Carolina Cities and Counties

Office of Waste Reduction
N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources

The passage of the 1989 Solid Waste Management Act (Senate Bill 111) and new legislation since then, has necessitated the development and in many cases, expansion of recycling programs in every county in the state in order to meet the 25% waste reduction goal by June 30, 1993. Since the state as a whole is diverse in terms of population, tax base, resources, and expertise, it is not surprising that recycling efforts in different parts of the state also vary in their size, depth, and effectiveness.

Recognizing these differences, the Office of Waste Reduction would like to lend support to counties and municipalities in North Carolina who are in the very early stages of setting up solid waste recycling or reduction programs and find themselves relatively new to the recycling field. The maximum financial support for applying local governments will be \$ 15,000 and will depend upon demonstrated technical and economic need and local hardships (such as limited access to local recycling markets).



NC Recycling Grants – Thru the Middle Years

- 1991-95: Quickly evolved to capital projects to expand both public and private recycling capacity
(occasional research project)
- Early 2000s: short period of commodity-specific or targeted grant rounds
(C&D, organics, paper, buy-recycled)

|1999 ORGANIC WASTES RECYCLING GRANTS
SCOPE OF WORK

Waste Reduction Using Vermicomposting In Public Institutions
EPM, Inc.

Contract dates: March 1, 1999 – February 29, 2000





NC Recycling Grants – A Seasoned Program

By 2003, Dedicated Funding Rounds:

- *Private Recycling Business Development Grants*
- *Public/Local Government Recycling Grants*

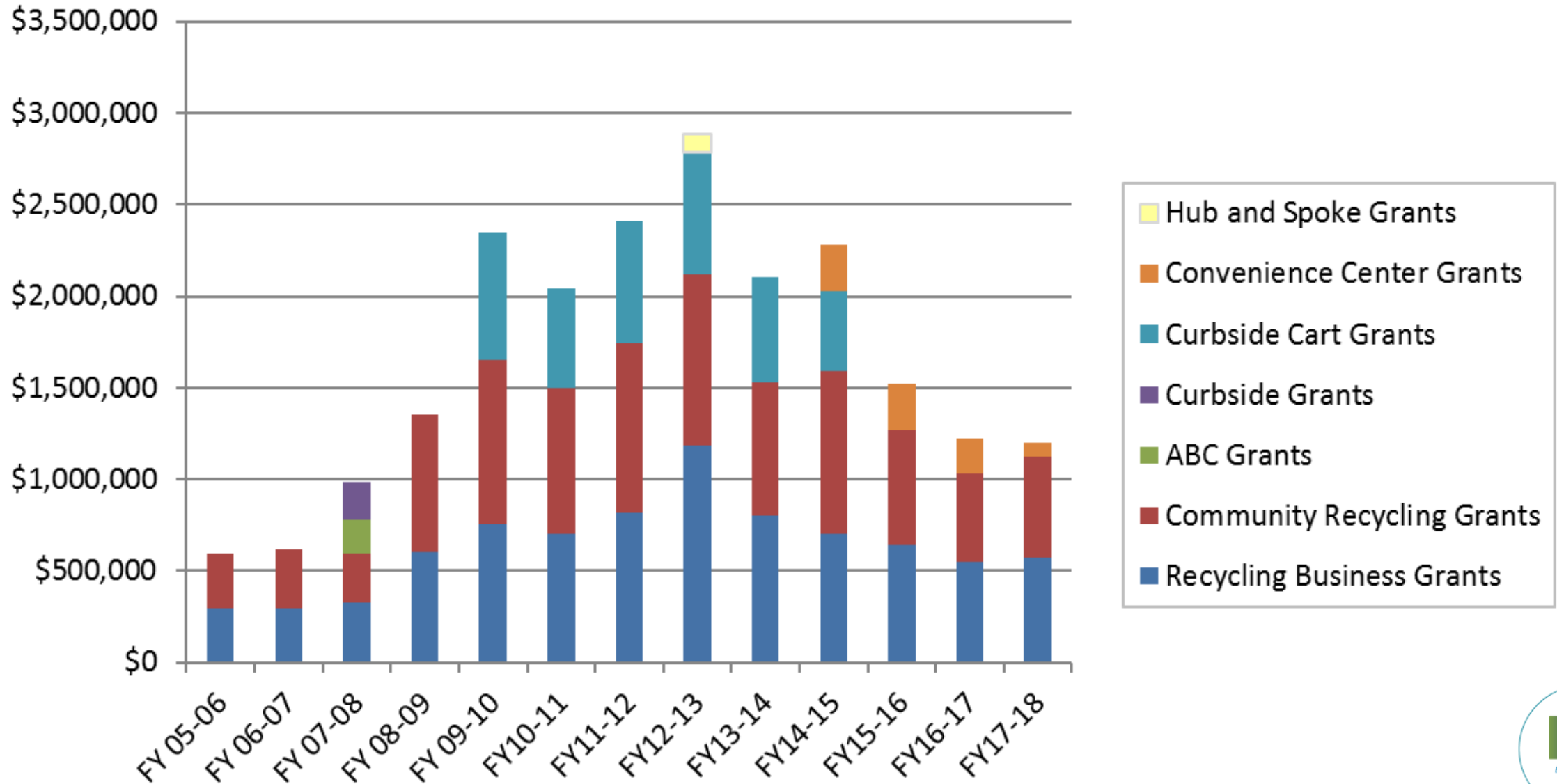
\$500K to \$1.1M per year for all grant programs

- *Peak \$2.8M in FY2013-14*

35-80 public & private projects funded per year

Programmatic drivers for specific funding targets & priorities within public & private grant rounds

NC Grant Funding Expenditures – 2006 to 2018





Carts: New Efficiency in Curbside Collection

Old Collection System Using Bins



Average Bin-based program:
247 lbs/household/year

State assistance has helped more almost
all curbside programs adopt carts

New Collection System Using Carts

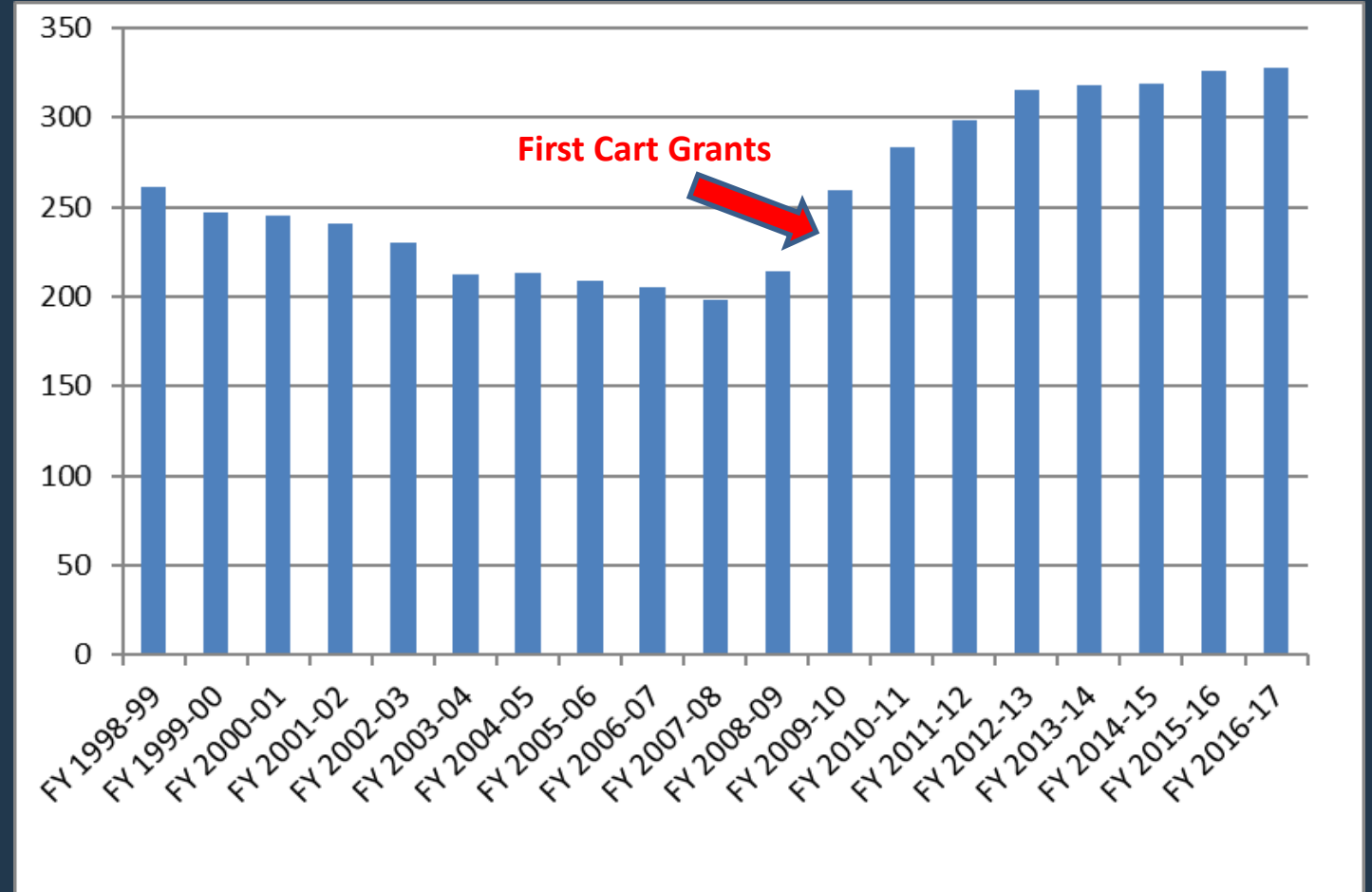


Average Cart-based programs:
445 lbs/household/year



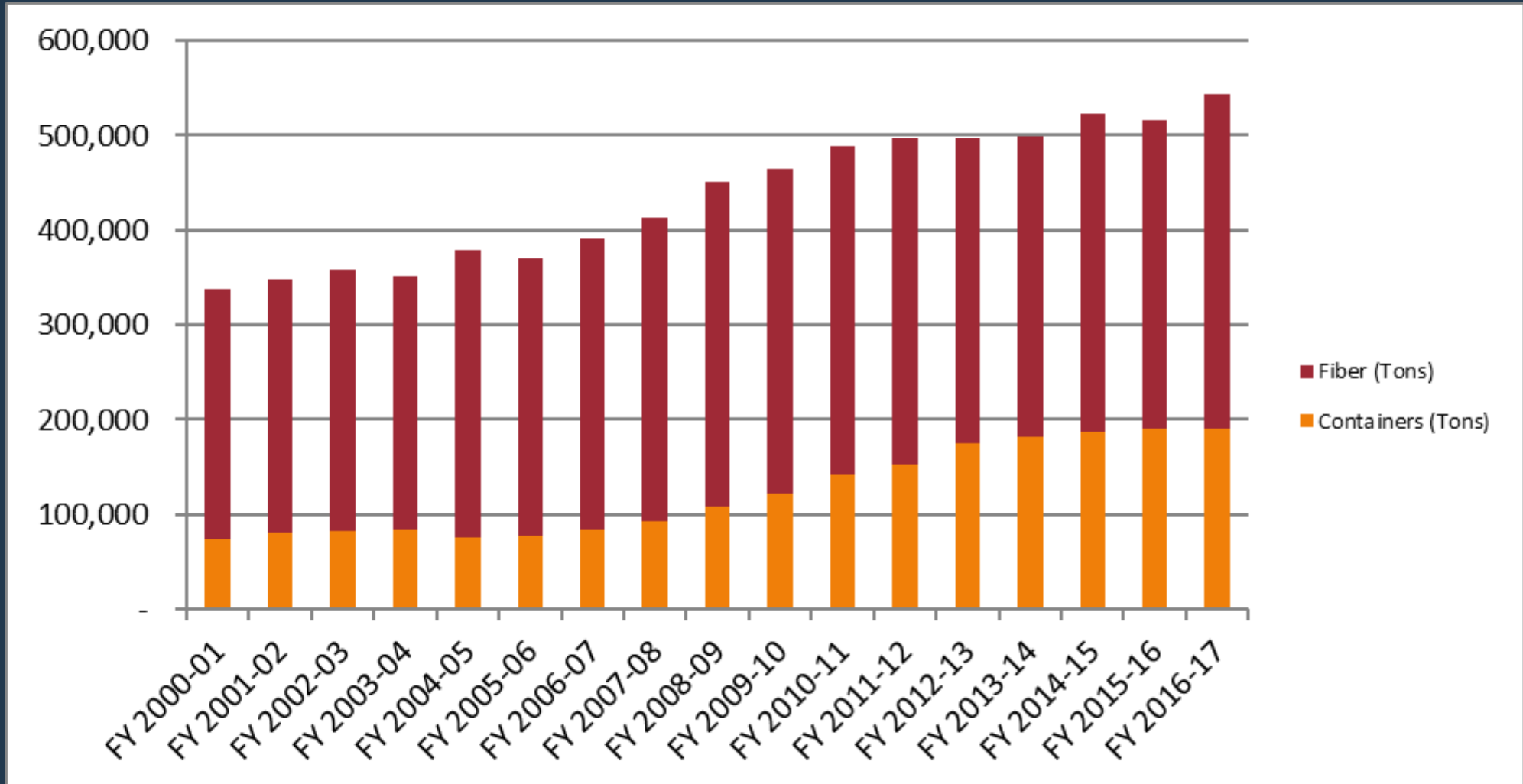
Targeted Cart Grants + Tech Asst = System Growth & Change

Impact on Number of Local
Curbside Recycling
Programs





Recovered “Traditional” Recyclables



Local Government Grant: Rutherford County

- Hub & Spoke Grant for Local Government
- \$100,000 Grant Award
- FY2012-13
- Complete recycling program overhaul
- Now operates a single-stream recycling program and transfer station -- showcased as a model to other NC communities
- 56% Increase in recycling tons collected
- Savings in operational costs
- Allowed the surrounding municipalities of Rutherfordton, Spindale, and Ruth to modernize their recycling programs





Local Government Grant(s): New Hanover County

- Community Recycling Grant
- \$30,000 Grant Award
- FY2015-16
- Mobile HHW Collection Vehicle
- Doubled # customers served
- Diverting 1.3 tons/day in operation (200 tons/year)
- Serving as example to peer communities in North & South Carolina



Recycling Business Grant: Clear Path Recycling

- Recycling Business Development Grant
- \$40,000 Grant Award
- FY2010-11
- 100 Full-time jobs (*initially, over 3 years*)
- \$70 M Private Investment
- Driver in facility deciding to locate in NC
- Project to construct largest (at the time) PET bottle recycling facility in North America – initial processing capacity of 160 million lbs/year



2018 Grant Priority Projects Supports Programs & Markets



- **Local Governments**
 - Away From Home
 - Curbside in unincorporated areas
 - HHW
 - Hub and Spoke
 - Food Waste
- **Recycling Businesses**
 - MRF Upgrades
 - Food Waste
 - Domestic processing of materials affected by China policies (*mixed paper and #3-7 mixed plastics*)



Business Grants as an Economic Driver

- Small grants aimed at capital investment
- 50% matching requirement, often minimum match exceeded by grantee
- Demand for grants exceeds amounts available
 - *34 companies requesting an additional \$1.4 M in grants were NOT funded*

5 Year Summary of NC Recycling Business Grants 2011-2016	
Total grant funding awarded	\$3.7 M
Number of Projects Awarded Funding	147
Range of Grant Award Per Company	\$2,800-\$40,000
Average Grant Award	\$25,000
Total Private Sector Investment	\$18.4M
Additional Private Sector Recycling Capacity Created	1M tons/year
Jobs Created	306



Recent Recycling Investments in NC

Unifi's
REPREVE
Bottle
Processing
Plant



Eggers Group
(particle board
manufacturer)



Sonoco Recycling MRFs



A.L. Baucom Family Farms
(gypsum recycling)





What's ahead...?

Grant-making ability
important driver for
achieving statewide
diversion *and* economic
development

Continue public & private
grant programs, but need
to evaluate and respond
to changing marketplace



Thank you!



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